

CLAIMS

1. A method of performing boots for multiple, interconnected computer systems, the method comprising:
notifying an intelligent endpoint of a boot event for a computer system, the intelligent endpoint being connected to one of the computer systems; and
deciding on an action for the boot event using the intelligent endpoint, wherein the action may affect or depend on a boot of another computer system.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the boot event relates to platform configuration.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the intelligent endpoint can determine which components in the computer systems to boot and in what order the components should be booted.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the boot event relates to multi-medium configuration.
5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the intelligent endpoint could assist in decision-making based on protocols for a specific medium.
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the boot event relates to file system and image format.
7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the intelligent endpoint can determine which primitive structures are used and how the primitive structures are organized.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the boot event relates to post-boot considerations.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein post-boot considerations can include at least one of:

how an operating system interacts with boot code;
whether certain boot components are kept "alive" during normal operation;
proper version control and protection; and
extending service of installable drivers.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein notifying the intelligent endpoint includes communicating over a system bus or a system fabric.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the system bus or the system fabric conforms to the PCI Express specification.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein deciding on an action for the boot includes:

using a boot manager in the intelligent endpoint to access boot intelligence.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein boot intelligence includes a plurality of startup sequences.

14. The method of Claim 12, wherein controlling the boot includes determining whether a plurality of hard disk drives are in normal state or in suspend state.

15. The method of Claim 12, wherein controlling the boot includes facilitating determining whether boot instructions are valid.

16. The method of Claim 12, wherein controlling the boot includes determining whether non-volatile memory storing boot instructions can be re-programmed.

17. An intelligent endpoint being connectable to a computer system and at least one other computer system via a fabric, the intelligent endpoint comprising:

a boot manager for assisting a booting platform of each of the computer systems; and

boot intelligence for storing information regarding boots of the computer systems.

18. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 17, wherein the boot manager is coupled to receive a boot event from the booting platform.

19. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 18, wherein the boot event relates to platform configuration.

20. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 19, wherein the intelligent endpoint can access information in the boot intelligence regarding which components in the computer systems to boot and in what order the components should be booted.

21. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 18, wherein the boot event relates to multi-medium configuration.

22. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 21, wherein the intelligent endpoint assists in decision-making based on protocols for a specific medium.

23. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 18, wherein the boot event relates to file system and image format.

24. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 23, wherein the intelligent endpoint can access information in the boot intelligence regarding which primitive structures are used and how the primitive structures are organized.

25. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 18, wherein the boot event relates to post-boot considerations.

26. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 17, wherein the boot manager is connectable to the fabric usable by the at least one other computer system.

27. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 17, wherein boot intelligence stores a plurality of startup sequences.

28. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 17, wherein the boot manager can access information in the boot intelligence regarding whether to boot a hard disk drive in a computer system in one of a normal state and a suspend state.

29. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 17, wherein the boot manager can facilitate determining whether boot instructions for a computer system are valid.

30. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 17, wherein the boot manager can access information in the boot intelligence regarding whether non-volatile memory storing boot instructions in a computer system can be re-programmed.

31. A computer system comprising:
a booting platform for a computer; and
an intelligent endpoint operatively coupled to the computer via a system fabric, the intelligent endpoint managing at least a portion of a boot of the computer.

32. The computer system of Claim 31, wherein the booting platform includes:
a boot loader for physically performing the boot; and
a boot agent for communicating with the boot loader during a boot..

33. The computer system of Claim 32, wherein the intelligent endpoint includes:
a boot manager for communicating with the boot agent across the system fabric; and
boot intelligence for storing information regarding a boot of the computer system, the boot manager communicating with the boot intelligence.

34. The computer system of Claim 33, wherein boot intelligence stores a plurality of startup sequences.

35. The computer system of Claim 33, wherein the boot manager can determine whether to boot a hard disk drive in

the computer system, the hard disk drive being one of a normal state and a suspend state.

36. The computer system of Claim 33, wherein the boot manager can facilitate determining whether boot instructions for the computer system are valid.

37. The computer system of Claim 33, wherein the boot manager can determine whether non-volatile memory storing boot instructions in the computer can be re-programmed.

38. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 33, wherein the boot manager is coupled to receive a boot event from the booting platform.

39. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 38, wherein the boot event relates to platform configuration.

40. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 39, wherein the intelligent endpoint can access information in the boot intelligence regarding which components in the computer system to boot and in what order the components should be booted.

41. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 38, wherein the boot event relates to multi-medium configuration.

42. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 41, wherein the intelligent endpoint assists in decision-making based on protocols for a specific medium.

43. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 38, wherein the boot event relates to a file system and an image format in the computer.

44. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 43, wherein the intelligent endpoint can access information in the boot intelligence regarding which primitive structures are used and how the primitive structures are organized.

45. The intelligent endpoint of Claim 38, wherein the boot event relates to post-boot considerations.